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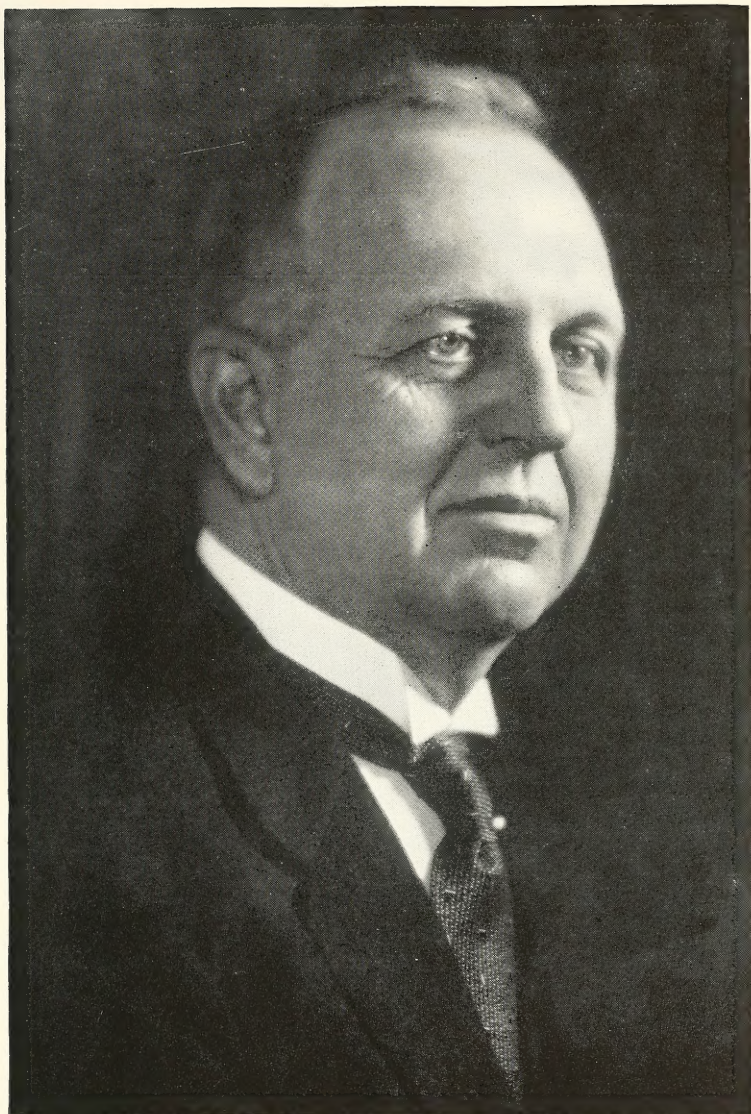


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CHARLES CLINTON WEAVER *W362*
MAN and MINISTER

1875 - 1946

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Charles Clinton Weaver

1875 - 1946

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FOREWORD

"Father's heart is failing. You had better come." The metallic, almost strange, voice of my brother came over the wire from Elkin on that fateful Tuesday morning, confirming my fears of the evening before. I had sat at the bedside of my father in the Hugh Chatham Hospital for more than two hours on Monday evening, and as I watched the pulsating struggle for life that went on there, I seemed to sense that the great soul of Charles Clinton Weaver was about to fly to its Maker. As I left the sick room on that Monday evening, I bade him goodbye with, "I will see you in the morning, Father." Yet, I somehow seemed to sense that it would be in God's Eternal Morning.

We went as speedily as possible, stopping at home to comfort as best we could our distraught Mother, Sister, and Brothers. After some time, I went to the hospital and asked the Nurse if I might go in to see Father. Dr. Vernon Taylor came out of the room in response to my request. "It's no use," he said, "he is gone." I alone of the family was there, and with leaden feet and heavy heart it was my onerous duty to carry the message to the others. Thus, at two o'clock on March 19, 1946, a great heart, which had beat so strongly for all humanity for more than three score years and ten, laid down its burden.

Assisted by the tender ministration of loving hands, we held the service the following day in the Elkin Methodist Church. The pastor, the Reverend R. G. Tuttle, was assisted by Bishop Purcell, Dr. C. N. Clark, Dr. H. G. Allen, and Dr. L. B. Hayes. His body was committed to its final resting place at the feet of his sainted Father and Mother at Emory in the beautiful valley of Southwest Virginia, amid the rolling hills which he loved so well, just as the evening sun sank beneath the western horizon. God's sun and God's son went to rest together. He sleeps there in peaceful repose, in company with those he loved and lost a little while, overlooking the college which he so earnestly nurtured and shepherded for more than a decade.

This briefly outlines the close of a life which began in Ashe County, North Carolina, on June 21, 1875. In mature manhood, it encompassed the duties of College President, Minister, and Hospital Superintendent. Even as the Master he was Teacher, Preacher, and Healer. It was marked by union to a devoted and saintly companion, and the fatherhood of five children, all of whom had the misfortune to outlive him.

Although, like Lord Hamlet, at these times we feel the futility of words, the following compilation is an effort to perpetu-

ate a few of the many tributes to his memory, for all of which we are most grateful.

As the intervening days have given perspective, there are a few characteristics of his life that etch themselves in my memory in bold relief.

My Father was the soul of generosity. There was not a small nor a selfish attribute about him. He was ever ready and anxious to help those less fortunately situated. I have often heard him say, "We must do, not only the right, but the generous thing."

My Father was a courageous man. He was not pugnacious and ever sought to allay strife, but he never receded from principle. His courage was the courage of conviction, yet mixed in happy proportion with gentleness.

My Father was a great humanitarian. His great heart beat for all types and classes of humanity. He could walk with kings, for he was possessed of kingly attributes, but he never lost the common touch. The problems of the poorest and the humblest were ever his concern. He was as good a judge of human nature as I have ever known, and rarely was his trust in his fellow man betrayed.

My father was a man who adhered to the simple virtues. He believed that honesty, moral and intellectual, was one of the great essentials. To him truth was sacred. He never aspired to greatness, yet greatness sought him out, and he wore her mantle with becoming grace. He never asked for position or security, but only, 'where can I serve' and his boy is prouder of that heritage today than anything he could have left him. He gave his sympathies to the suffering, his substance to the poor, his service to his day and generation, and his heart to God. What more doth the Lord require of thee?

"He is gone," you say, Dr. Taylor? Why, Doctor, he is everywhere. He cannot go. He walks with me, and he talks with me, sometimes during my waking hours, sometimes when the shades of night are drawn, as surely as he did in those other and happy days when he put a friendly and fatherly arm about my shoulders, as we walked the hills of our farm together. Love has lifted the veil that so thinly intervenes between his world and mine. He feels the approach of my oncoming Presence, as I feel the glow of his departed Spirit, and we are still united. I know what he would have me do, and with God's help, I shall follow the gleam. Hail and farewell, bright Spirit! I will see you in the Morning.

STACY WEAVER

Statesville, North Carolina

Sept. 2, 1946.

Address by

DR. L. B. HAYES

at the funeral services at the Elkin Methodist Church

March 20, 1946

We hold these sad rites today on the southern slopes of the great Blue Ridge—a range of mountains of back-bone importance in eastern America. They have great geological age and from this locale has grown generations of strong citizens. Lying south and west the “thermal Belt” stretches for an hundred miles or more. In all this rugged terrain frosts are tempered by a friendly warmth and the fruits of orchards and fields seldom fail.

Comparable to this favorable climate there is an atmosphere conducive to the growth of souls that results in the making of strong men. There is enough poverty to act as a spur to the spirit; there is enough hardship and struggle to discipline the physique and mind. The moral sun light is invigorating and the rigors of winter never quite congeal the good intentions of those who long for a larger life. In these regions have dwelt many notable families and from them has gone a steady stream of resourceful and independent leaders who carry the responsibilities of business, education, civic government, public health and church organizations.

And so it happens that, in Ashe County, in this seed-bed of the South, in a valley two score miles from this place was born our Brother Beloved who has finished his days in the “tenement of clay”, but has only changed his form of living so as to offer us the opportunity to celebrate his virtues, while we indulge the certain hope of his entrance into the Life of the Ages which is eternal.

By all the ways we measure the character and attainments of men, his life was a success. In accounting for his exceptional service a few factors can be enumerated; *First*, it must be said that he *had a parentage of decided advantage* and this placed him ahead of many of average ancestry. He was a son of the parsonage and statistics are all in favor of the preachers children. Son and daughter they are of sounder character and achieve more success in ratio to their numbers than the children of any other type of home. This bloodline put more into his making than any natural environment, more than nearness to rolling rivers, lovely valleys and towering mountains. He was indigenous to the hills in body and brain but he was indebted to his father and mother for his enlightened and generous soul.

(Your speaker cannot forget, nor would he if he could, the

inspiring picture of the first "Dr. Weaver". I was standing on the side of the road and saw coming a man on horse-back. The very gait of that fine animal and the commanding figure of the rider arrested attention. The Elder J. H. Weaver sat his mount with the poise and noble bearing of Robert E. Lee on old Traveler. As he passed by he raised his hand and gave this boy a deep "good morning, Son", and rode on to his Quarterly Meeting. I did not go but my father was there to meet him and I got my first impulse towards the ministry. In my heart I thought "I would like to be like that man".)

Charles C. Weaver was his father's son. He was the worthy son of a noble Sire, and he never got away from the touch of a friendly guiding hand on his shoulder. Every year he grew more like his ideal and example. He was never more greatly pleased than when his contemporaries told him that he resembled his father. Though no more richly endowed by nature he was enabled to add to the name of Weaver a broader education and a riper scholarship.

At Trinity College, where he took his first degree, he carried the Phi Beta Kappa key and at Johns Hopkins he took his doctorate in philosophy. Later his Alma Mater awarded him the Doctor of Divinity degree, and all these titles and honors rested on him with becoming grace. By character and attainment he deserved such recognition. He was an avid reader and remained a student all his life. He had one of those rare adhesive minds to which facts and names clung with easy affinity. I think he could give the name and initials of more men in our Conference than any among us. He was first to answer when a full name was wanted or a fact established. He especially remembered all his old students and followed their careers with personal interest.

Beginning his active service he was for three years President of Rutherford College; seven years President of Davenport College, and for ten years President of Emory and Henry College in Va. When his sainted father died suddenly in Greensboro, Charles Weaver, the Educator, felt the mantle of the pastoral ministry fall heavily upon him. He did not wish to give up the field of education but he could not resist the pull of the pulpit made vacant by the going home of his beloved father.

So he came back to North Carolina, joined our Conference, and was assigned to Monroe where he had a happy useful quadrennium. Possibly his most notable work was at Centenary church in Winston-Salem. For nine years he was minister and manager of that great enterprise and development of a great cathedral church out of the combination of two down-town congregations. It took a great mind and a steady hand to hold and

mold the diverse influences into one cooperating, unified organization. Many strong influential laymen gladly followed his leadership and great things were done in that city. If men must have memorials of stone it can be said of Charles C. Weaver as was said of Sir Christopher Wrenn, the builder of St. Pauls in London, "If you would see his monument, look around you."

His pastorates also include Central church Asheville and four years in First Church in Charlotte. He served a year on the Greensboro District and four years on the Winston-Salem District as Superintendent. This work of supervision was not wholly congenial to him, possibly because of his kindness and sympathy for the ministers. He did not enjoy presiding over the destinies of his fellow pastors, but those of us who worked with him in the Cabinet knew we could always count on his candor and fairness in the consideration of men and matter under discussion.

MISSIONARY LABORS

In addition to these outlined activities he had an abiding interest in the missionary causes of the church. Possibly he raised more money for missions than any man among us in the same length of time. He was always well informed and greatly devoted to sending the Gospel to the ends of the earth. He was an inspiration and support to his wife who carries the responsibility of President of the Woman's Work in our Conference. They complemented each other like twin pillars under a great structure. He was long a member of the General Board of Missions, and president of the Conference organization, and Vice-president at the end of his record. He was a member of every General Conference from 1918 to 1944 except one. He was also a member of the Uniting Conference in Kansas City in 1939 and of the two Jurisdictional Conferences held since that time.

GOOD WILL INDUSTRIES

There is one little known but vastly important phase of his work in Winston-Salem which should be mentioned. He was very helpful to other churches in the city, especially the Negro churches and he led in the establishment of the Good Will Industries there. In the sheer amount of good done to needy people, I rank the Good Will Industries as an unquestioned example of Home Mission work that compares favorably with the building of the beautiful Centenary House of God, or any other thing done in Winston-Salem within a generation. It is true that the Good Will project was a city wide movement but in its genesis and in its support Dr. Weaver was the indispensable man.

HOSPITAL ACTIVITIES

His hand touched all departments of the church's activities.

It is no accident that when he went away he was superintendent of the Chatham Memorial Hospital at Elkin. For next to that Master Craftsman, Dr. L. B. Abernathy, he was the leader in erecting and in maintaining the Hospital here. He asked for this assignment and had large plans for the future development—we hope to see those plans brought to fulfillment. He was a trustee of the hospital since its founding; a trustee of the Annual Conference; a member of the N. C. Council of Churches and a member of the board of managers of the N. C. Pastors School.

He was a man of courageous and progressive spirit. He was ever on the side of advance. It was his wisdom to work through others—the sign of the able administrator—yet when the issue demanded it he took personal responsibility and was found out in front taking the arrows of criticism and carrying the fight to the other camp. He had little patience with pretense or dishonesty. He did not use it himself and he did not tolerate it in others. With him truth and integrity were sacred and he reflected them clearly in his own character.

PERSONAL INFLUENCE

His personal influence was extensive and powerful. Two well remembered instances: Once in the Annual Conference when the debate was sharp and becoming acrimonious when, as he said, there was “more heat than light in the discussions” he remembered the action of the General Conference on the matter under discussion and he quickly stepped into his office, secured the Journal of the General law making body of the church, and had it read to the excited congregation. This was oil on the waters and the debate subsided.

Some of us recall his superb generalship in breaking the deadlock in the voting at the Jurisdictional Conference. He secured the consent of another man to stand for election, touched the right leaders of other delegations and soon there was another brilliant young Bishop up for consecration. It was all highly honorable and necessary. All of us were glad to follow but only Dr. Weaver saw the opportunity and met the emergency. It was almost magical and a sincere tribute to the leadership of our churchman. He had a brilliant and daring mind wedded to sound judgement.

PERSONAL

This address must be mainly impersonal in order to save my own composure and to meet the ideals of decorum and dignity of him in whose honor we meet. Dr. Weaver was above all else a gentleman of culture and restraint. He held a tight check rein on his own emotions. Only a few times have any of us, even those of us who knew him best, seen him falter because of emotional

strain. Yet his heart was as gentle as a woman's and he had great sympathy and felt deeply.

He had the manly ruse of covering up his love for his friends by gently teasing and prodding them. This was partly the schoolmaster's art of calling out the best in his students by provoking them to thought and keeping them humble. He was really a great teacher, using mainly the Socratic method and letting the pupil do most of the talking. He had the patience to wait for a personal conclusion, when his own bright mind had the answer. Hundreds of us are indebted to him for his great help. I have never known a man more appreciative of talent or more anxious to help young men realize the best that was in them.

There is assembled here today a large group of the clerical members of the W.N.C. Conference. Had this service been held in Winston-Salem the Church would have been equally crowded. The news will be read and told in a thousand homes in several states; "Dr. Weaver is dead". This will be a contradiction of terms. No man is dead who is fondly remembered for personal friendships and for reasons of great service. No man is dead whose traditions and ideals are carried out in his children. No man can die while his influence abides in scores of other younger men in the ministry. No man is dead for whom Christ died and who heartily accepts the full atonement thus made. This soul who knew his own weakness was strong in the Lord and the power of His might. And he rejoiced in hope of the glory of God.

So blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who of His great mercy has begotten us into a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus from the dead; to an inheritance that is incorruptible, undefiled, and that fadeth not away; reserved in Heaven for us all.

* * * * *

After a brief service in the crowded and flower filled church at Elkin where the pastor, Rev. R. G. Tuttle, was assisted by Bishop Purcell, Dr. H. G. Allen, Dr. C. N. Clark and the writer, we took his body over the rolling hills to lay him at the feet of his enshrined mother and father in the village of Emory, Va., overlooking the college which he led for a decade. Several ministers from the Holston Conference and friends from the community met us there. His pastor and this son in the gospel conducted the brief ceremony and Dr. Gibson, president of Emory and Henry, pronounced the benediction. There was no music save the aeolian harps which played in the branches of the pines above us. This was balm in our Gilead but the ache in our hearts will be assuaged by grace after many days.

Editorial

THE CHARLOTTE OBSERVER

March 21, 1946

North Carolina Methodism mourns the passing of one of its noble ministers in the death of Dr. C. C. Weaver.

And not only Methodism, but church men and Christian forces as a whole in North Carolina.

Dr. Weaver was a man of powerful proportions, great in the strength of his body, of his mind and of his soul—great in his passions for people, in his sympathies for them and in his wistfulness that he might do them good.

It is not to belittle his capacities in the pulpit to contend that, perhaps, outside of it was he at his best in his services for the Kingdom.

He had that common touch with mankind that made him akin to all men and spent his life for their uplift and benefit. He found his opportunities for such ministries in the common contacts of the everyday.

Charlotte knew Dr. Weaver well and honored him for his effective work here as pastor, and for the large benefactions wrought by his civic and social consciousness in the development of the community in moral directions and dimensions.

He was a man who only had to be known to be admired, respected and loved.

His companionship was an inspiration, his fellowship a benediction. His infectious good nature cut like a shaft of light through the darknesses of time and circumstances, brightening forlorn faces, lifting burdens from heavy hearts, dispelling gloom from despairing spirits and sending wearied people along their way with a song on their lips.

Men of this measurement are not to be numbered among the common lot. They stand apart from their fellows like some tall tree that has outgrown the height of the surrounding forest.

Dr. Weaver wrought well and achievingly for his fellowman, for his society, for his church and for his God by his "walk and conversation", by his precept and example, and by every word and work which he has left as reminding monuments to his rich, fruitful and full life.

Editorial

THE WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL

March 21, 1946

The death of Dr. Charles C. Weaver, general superintendent of Hugh Chatham Memorial Hospital and for more than 40 years one of the outstanding ministers and educational leaders of the State, will be keenly felt in Winston-Salem, where he served his longest pastorate.

Dr. Weaver began his career after completing his education at Weaver College, Duke, Vanderbilt and Johns Hopkins Universities, as the president of Rutherford College, and served for many years as an educational administrator before accepting active duty as a minister.

In 1920, Dr. Weaver resigned as president of Emory and Henry to enter active pastoral duties, his first pastorate being at Monroe. From Monroe he came to Centenary Methodist Church in Winston-Salem. He remained at Centenary for nine years and under his able over-all direction the consolidation of Centenary and West End Methodist Churches was effected and the new Centenary Church, one of the largest and most beautiful church edifices in the South, was constructed on West Fifth Street.

Dr. Weaver was a man of deep religious convictions and the highest spiritual and social ideals. He had broad vision, tolerance, wide understanding of human nature. But while he had vision, he was no "visionary." There was about him, his philosophy and work, an element of the eminently practical. He believed not merely in a praying tongue. He believed in praying hands and praying feet. No man knew better than he that faith without works is dead, or that man holds in his own hands, his own initiative, energy and power of will, the answer to many of his hopes and prayers. He was a doer who knew not only what needed to be done in social progress, but also how it should and could be done. And with greatness of soul and singleness of purpose he went to work and did the things needful which fell to his lot to be accomplished.

Beautiful Centenary Church stands in large measure as a memorial to his faith, his organizing ability, his capacity to smooth out internal congregational difficulties, his determination. But there are many other monuments to Dr. Weaver which have been built up in the hearts and lives of the hundreds of men and women whom he taught in church and school how to lift the latch and learn the way that leads into spiritual peace and understanding.

Editorial

ELKIN TRIBUNE

March 21, 1946

In the passing of Dr. Charles C. Weaver, Elkin has lost one of its most useful and distinguished citizens—a man known and loved throughout our entire state.

It is not for us to question or to reason why Dr. Weaver was called away, but the grief which has come in his passing is both sincere and widespread. In his going our section of the state and our community has suffered a great loss.

Dr. Weaver was one of Methodism's most prominent leaders. During a long and useful life he had served well as a pastor in various North Carolina cities, coming to Elkin only a relatively short while ago to assume the position he held at his death, that of superintendent of the Hugh Chatham Memorial Hospital.

To know Dr. Weaver was to love him. During his too brief sojourn among us, he had become an integral part of our community life, taking a great interest in both the spiritual and civic affairs of the town. At the hospital he was planning many things of a beneficial and constructive nature, and even as he passed away, evidence of his work was apparent in the actual construction of a new addition, plus the plans for increasing the hospital's bed capacity.

At the hospital, on the street, or as a casual but welcome visitor to local homes and business houses, Dr. Weaver made his presence and influence felt. Friendly, fun-loving, genial and above all, a man of God, he was the type of citizen no town could afford to lose. Yet in his going we may rejoice that no man was better prepared to meet his God.

To his family The Tribune speaks for all our citizens in expressing sincere grief and sorrow in his passing, taking comfort only in the thought that we were privileged to know him and to have called him friend. And comfort, too, in the sure knowledge that even as we sadly whispered "he is gone," that somewhere beyond the skies there was a glad cry of "He has come."

Address by

DR. H. J. GARNAND

at a Memorial Service at Emory and Henry College

March 25, 1946

Charles Clinton Weaver was born in Ashe County, N. C., June 21, 1875. His parents were James Harvey and Jennie Burkett Weaver. He received his A. B. degree from Trinity College (N. C.) in 1895, his Ph. D. from Johns Hopkins University in 1900, and was honored with a D.D. degree by Duke University in 1936. He married Florence Stacy, June 18, 1902. Their children, all still living, are James Harvey, Lucius Stacy, Charles Clinton, Janie, and Philip Johnson. Dr. Weaver was president of Rutherford College 1900-03, and of Davenport College 1903-10. He became president of Emory and Henry College in 1910 and remained until 1920. In 1918, he became president of Martha Washington College when it was united to Emory and Henry and was president of both institutions during the critical days following the first World War. Dr. Weaver was ordained a minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South in 1901, and from 1920-24 was pastor at Monroe, N. C. After that date, he occupied for nine years the pulpit of one of the largest and most prominent churches of the Southern Methodist Church—that in Winston-Salem, N. C.; then at Asheville 1933-35, and was presiding elder of Greensboro, N. C. district; pastor, First Methodist Episcopal Church, South, Charlotte, N. C. 1936-40; Superintendent Winston-Salem District 1940 until two years ago when he was appointed Superintendent of the Hospital at Elkin, N. C. which position he occupied until his passing a few days ago.

He was a member of the General Conference Methodist Episcopal Church, South 1918, '22, '30, '34, and '38; a member of the Uniting Conference Methodist Church 1939, of the General and Jurisdictional Conference 1940, '44. Dr. Weaver was a member of the Sigma Nu, Omicron Delta Kappa and Phi Beta Kappa Fraternities. He was a Mason and Rotarian.

Such, in bare and meager outline are the facts, which history records of the life and works on one of the truly great of this Southern Highland region. He was a product of our hills and like so many other of our illustrious sons, he gave himself back to us. What history records of a man is usually not the man himself. Only those of us who had the privilege of being associated with Dr. Weaver really knew him as he was—a great-hearted, generous, sympathetic and charming personality—one who left his stamp on the life and character of Emory and

Henry which will remain as long as the old college stands. His reforms and revisions of the old Emory and Henry curriculum were as epoch making as any that have been made or probably ever will be made. I wish to acknowledge a personal indebtedness to Dr. Weaver, who encouraged a none-too-experienced teacher 27 years ago to find himself and become identified with an institution he himself loved so well. In fact, he was so bound up with the life and institutions of the church that a fitting epitaph for him would be that on the stone of another of Emory's great—a man who, too, was president and professor for over fifty years, and who now sleeps on the hill: "School is out and the old master sleeps."

Address by

DR. H. M. HENRY

at a Memorial Service at Emory and Henry College

March 25, 1946

“President Gibson asked me to say a few words in appreciation of the life and services of Dr. Charles C. Weaver, who was president of Emory and Henry College 1910-1920, since I am one of the only two persons still connected with the college who were here while he was president. I esteem it a privilege to bear testimony to the worth and services of Dr. Weaver to his generation and more particularly to the college, and may I add, to myself and family as well. If I use the first person pronoun frequently it is due to the fact that he meant much to me personally. My wife and I came to Emory immediately following our marriage, while Dr. Weaver was president of the college. He and Mrs. Weaver were like a father and mother to us in many intimate ways. I have often wondered how much more difficult it would have been for us to establish our new home had it not been for their kindly and thoughtful assistance in numerous ways. To bear testimony to these kindnesses is a privilege.

“Dr. Weaver was a man of more than usual intellectual ability. Born of good frontier stock, reared in a Methodist parsonage, his education directed by wise and foreseeing parents he developed into young manhood under distinguished college and university teachers to be one of many choice leaders of his day. His was a mind that readily grasped the important core of a problem and quickly saw through to the most probable solution. He was witty, quick at repartee, and the joke was usually on the other fellow who tried to make humorous remarks at his expense. In public speech or sermon, no matter how profound the topic, he was always clear and simple, to the end that he was readily understood even by the most disinterested. He could say more in fewer words than most speakers.

“Dr. Weaver thought things through for himself. He was devoted to his church and its institutions. At the same time he was independent in his thinking and always had the courage of his convictions, when he found himself at odds with established precedents or orthodox traditions. His arguments were peculiarly effective because of the original ideas he presented and the manner in which they were brought forward. He was not at all inclined to follow after new ideas or vagaries because of their novelty, but somehow, he had an uncanny ability to see the wheat in what most of us regarded as chaff. And this discrimination

also applied to persons. He always saw much of value in a student in whom the rest of us found little about which to be hopeful. And the subsequent months and years usually demonstrated the correctness of his estimate. Too, he often sensed among a new batch of students the ones who had qualities of leadership and personal worth early in their college careers.

"But we are convened to pay tribute to Dr. Weaver for the services he rendered the college. He came to Emory and Henry after serving as president of two other colleges in North Carolina. With this background of experience he succeeded Dr. Waterhouse who had been elevated to the Episcopacy. During his administration, more new buildings were elevated on the campus than during that of any of his predecessors or successors. The student enrollment was almost doubled. The curriculum was modernized and new courses were offered. New and well equipped men were added to the faculty. Intercollegiate athletics was restored. During the First World War, the government used the college for a unit of the Student Army Training Corps. In general the tone, atmosphere and college spirit of the campus were greatly improved. He was a good administrator both in matters of discipline in the student body and among his colleagues on the teaching staff. His conduct of affairs was always characterized by a broad understanding and sympathetic approach. When Dr. Weaver decided to give up educational work to enter the active ministry he turned over to the successor an institution well organized and a going concern.

"On the hill overlooking the college lie the remains of our former president with those of four of six of his predecessors. The spirit of these men who gave many of their best years to this college lives on in the lives of those whom they touched and the educational movement they promoted and supported."

and

NC RB Weaver C C475C
Charles Clinton Weaver, mar
and minister, 1875-1946.

